

## Electrosurgical System

### Abstract

An electrosurgical system includes a generator (10) for generating radio  
5 frequency power, an electrosurgical instrument (12) including at least two electrodes,  
and an identification element (80) representative of at least the number of electrodes  
present on the instrument. The generator (10) comprises an RF output stage having  
three or more output connections (62A, 62B, 62C), and a power supply (66) coupled to  
the output stage for supplying power to the output stage. The generator (10) also  
10 includes a controller (72) capable of varying the RF signal supplied to at least one of  
the three or more output connections (62A, 62B, 62C), and a switching circuit (62) for  
varying the connections between the power supply (66) and the three or more output  
connections. The generator (10) also includes a sensing circuit capable of sensing the  
identification element (80) carried by the instrument, and of sending a signal to the  
15 switching circuit (62) to set the switching circuit to a mode of operation depending on  
the number of electrodes present on the instrument (12).